

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) Device (10, 22) for analgesic immobilization for use in cases of ~~a thorax having a fracture or~~ at least one rib having a fracture, wherein the immobilizing device (10, 22) comprises:

a flat single-piece splint element (12, 24) that is rigid in itself, the splint element being structured and arranged to cover an area of skin overlying ~~including:~~ said fractured at least one rib ~~or said fractured thorax~~ on both sides of the fracture (14), ~~and in a case of said fractured rib, at least as well as~~ neighboring ribs (15, 17), ~~and in a case of said fractured thorax, a neighboring non fractured part of the thorax;~~ and

means for adhering the splint element to the skin overlying the fractured at least one rib ~~wherein a side of the immobilizing device (10, 22) provided for facing the fracture comprises an appropriate adhesive layer (11, 26) for adhering the immobilizing device (10, 22) to the body~~

wherein the device comprises an inside face and an outside face, the means for adhering being disposed on the inside face, the means for adhering being arranged so that the means for

adhering makes contact with the skin overlying the fractured at least one rib.

16. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 15, wherein:

the splint element is disposed in a first layer that is rigid and formable; and

the means for adhering is disposed in a second layer secured to the first layer;

~~—(12, 24) can be fitted on an outside contour of the thorax without any additional aid or tool.~~

17. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim ~~15~~ 16 wherein the ~~splint element (12, 24)~~ first layer comprises a plastically deformable plastic plate.

18. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim ~~15~~ 16 wherein the ~~splint element (12, 24)~~ first layer comprises a plastically deformable metal plate.

19. (previously presented) Immobilizing device according to claim 18 wherein the plastically deformable metal plate comprises aluminium.

20. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 19 wherein the plastically deformable metal plate is

corrugated, crests of the corrugations being provided to run essentially parallel to the fractured at least one rib.

21. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 15 wherein the splint element (12, 24) is provided with a covering (23, 25) on at least one of a side of the rigid splint element facing the means for adhering and a side of the rigid splint element facing away from the means for adhering ~~an upper and lower surface~~ of the splint element.

22. (previously presented) Immobilizing device according to claim 21 wherein the covering (23, 25) comprises a tissue or an elastic.

23. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim ~~15~~ 16 wherein the immobilizing device is provided with a protecting foil (27) for protecting a the outside face ~~covering of upper upper side of the splint element (12, 24).~~

24. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 23 wherein the protecting foil (27) over the splint element (12, 24) is larger than the splint element so as to form a surrounding rim (28) as a strip, the protecting foil (27) being provided with an adhesive layer on ~~bottom~~ a side of the protecting foil facing the splint element ~~thereof~~.

25. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 24 wherein the ~~immobilizing device (10, 22)~~ second layer comprises also a local analgesic agent.

26-27. (canceled)

28. (previously presented) Immobilizing device according to claim 15 wherein the splint element (12, 24) is provided with holes.

29. (currently amended) Device (10, 22) for analgesic immobilization for use in cases of ~~a thorax having a fracture or~~ a at least one rib having a fracture, wherein the immobilizing device (10, 22) comprises:

a rigid and formable flat splint element ~~(12, 24)~~ that is rigid in itself, comprising a corrugated aluminum plate; and
an adhesive layer secured to the splint element;

wherein the device is the splint element being structured and arranged to cover ~~the fracture;~~ an area of skin overlying said fractured at least one rib on both sides of the fracture as well as neighboring ribs (15, 17); and

wherein the adhesive layer comprises means for adhering the adhesive layer in contact with the skin overlying the fractured at least one rib

~~wherein a side of the immobilizing device (10, 22) provided for facing the fracture comprises an appropriate adhesive layer (11, 26) for adhering the immobilizing device (10, 22) to the body;~~

~~wherein the splint element (12, 24) consists of a plastically deformable corrugated aluminum plate, crests of the corrugations being provided so as to run essentially parallel to the fractured rib.~~

30. (currently amended) Device (10, 22) for analgesic immobilization for use in cases of ~~a thorax having a fracture or~~ a at least one rib having a fracture, wherein the immobilizing device (10, 22) comprises:

a rigid and formable flat splint element ~~(12, 24) that is rigid in itself, the splint element~~

an adhesive layer secured to the splint element being structured and arranged to cover the fracture; and
a protecting foil covering the splint element, so that the splint element lies between the protecting foil and the adhesive layer; and

~~wherein a side of the immobilizing device (10, 22) provided for facing the fracture comprises an appropriate~~ the adhesive layer (11, 26) comprises means for adhering the immobilizing device (10, 22) to the body; adhesive layer in contact with skin overlying skin overlying the fractured at least one rib

~~wherein the device comprises a protecting foil (27) for protecting a covering of an upper side of the splint element.~~

31. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 30 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the protecting foil (27) ~~over~~ comprises an adhesive on a face of the protecting foil that is in contact with the outside face of the splint element (12, 24), ~~is developed so that it~~ the protecting foil being constructed and arranged so that the protecting foil is larger on the sides forming thereby than the splint element so as to create a surrounding rim (28) as a strip, and that the protecting foil (27) is provided with an adhesive layer on its bottom side around a perimeter of the splint element.

32-38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 29, wherein the device is constructed and arranged so that when adhered to a body to cover the fracture in the at least one rib as well as the neighboring ~~uninjured~~ ribs, the device keeps the fractured at least one rib in a fixed position relative to the neighboring ~~uninjured~~ ribs.

40. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 30, wherein the device is constructed and arranged so that

when adhered to a body to cover the fracture in the at least one rib as well as the neighboring ~~uninjured~~ ribs, the device keeps the fractured at least one rib in a fixed position relative to the neighboring ~~uninjured~~ ribs.

41. (new) The immobilizing device according to claim 15 wherein the splint element (12, 24) can be fitted over the fractured least one rib and the neighboring ribs without any additional aid or tool.